



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Michael Lazo Mihal

**FORMER DETROIT POLICE OFFICER SENTENCED FOR RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD
PORNOGRAPHY**

A former Detroit Police Officer was sentenced today to 41 months imprisonment for charges related to the receipt and possession of child pornography, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Michael Lazo Mihal, 57 of Detroit, was sentenced by United States District Judge Nancy G. Edmunds.

Mihal pleaded guilty in October 2006 to one count of Receipt of Child Pornography, and one count of Possession of Child Pornography. Mihal became the subject of an investigation after the United States Postal Inspection Service arrested Angel Mariscal, and shut down his illegal business Cultural Research Team (CRT) in 2002. For years, Mariscal videotaped himself raping and sexually assaulting children in Central and South American countries, and distributed the tapes to customers, such as Mihal, for a profit. Mariscal was sentenced to 100 years in federal prison for his crimes. CRT records recovered during the investigation showed Mihal ordered child pornographic videotapes from CRT from on at least 17 different occasions

between April 1998 and June 2001.

In September 2003, Postal Inspectors searched defendant's residence and his computer for child pornography and found more than 8,000 images and more than 100 movies/movie files.

containing child pornography, 60 of the movies were produced by Mariscal and CRT.

United States Attorney Murphy applauded the efforts of the Postal Inspection Service for their aggressive pursuit of those who prey on children. "Protecting these innocent victims of violent sexual assault from suffering the injury of re-victimization by child pornography distributors is paramount. These images represent a photographic record of a violent crime in progress. The horror of the crime, having been reduced to a recording, may well haunt the victims for years to come."

Murphy praised the work of the Postal Inspection Service for their professionalism and dedication in their aggressive and thorough investigation of these cases.

Assistant United States Attorney Saima Mohsin, prosecuted case for the United States.